



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

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**Iowa Receives Federal Grant of \$735,000**  
to Implement a Comprehensive Statewide Juvenile Reentry Program

The Iowa Department of Human Rights' Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) has been awarded a \$735,000 competitive Second Chance Act Reentry Implementation Grant from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The Second Chance Act grant program provides grants to states and local governments to promote the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated. The funds will be utilized over a 12-month period to reduce recidivism in Iowa's juvenile justice system by enhancing reentry services for youth returning to their families and communities from facilities such as the State Training School, group care, and psychiatric medical facilities for children.

"Reentry from out-of-home placement is a critical time for youth, and it is vital that family and community supports are in place to assist the young people in this transition," said Steve Michael, Division Administrator of CJJP. "The ultimate goal is to reduce recidivism for these youth and increase public safety by implementing a comprehensive statewide juvenile reentry system that focuses on the most serious juvenile offenders. Another important goal is to improve family engagement, education, employment, and behavioral health outcomes for the youth."

The Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning is partnering with the State Court Administrator's Office, Juvenile Court Services, and the Department of Human Services to implement coordinated and comprehensive reentry services and programs, including:

- improved assessment policies and practices by juvenile court services;
- a cross-agency collaborative approach to pre-release services, transition planning, and post-release quality services and supervision that have demonstrated to improve outcomes for youth. Multiple systems (e.g. education, workforce, housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment, child welfare, and vocational rehabilitation) must work together to provide the transitioning youth the opportunities to succeed; and
- enhanced program and policy monitoring that will improve the quality of assessments, implementation supports, youth outcome data collection, analysis, and report development.

The implementation strategies were developed through a 10-month planning effort led by a Juvenile Reentry Task Force (JRTF), which is a sub-committee of the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council. The task force was comprised of individuals representing various state agencies (Juvenile Court Office, Boys State Training School, Child Advocacy Board, Iowa Department of Public Health, Workforce Development, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Corrections, Department of Education, and the legislature), Aftercare Services Network and other youth-serving agencies, Iowa State University Extension, and system-involved youth. The unique perspectives added value to the implementation strategies that were developed.

Iowa is gaining significant momentum on criminal justice reform. In August, Governor Terry Branstad announced the formation of The Governor's Working Group on Justice Policy Reform to research and make policy recommendations related to reforms in Iowa criminal justice practices. The working group is expected to present a report by November 1, 2015, so that the Iowa legislature can consider these recommendations in the 2016 legislative session. Earlier this month, Representative Helen Miller hosted the Iowa Criminal Justice Summit at the University of Northern Iowa. The purpose of the summit was to raise awareness of critical issues facing the criminal justice system and served as a call to action for reform. Justice system reform is also taking place at the national level. On October 1, 2015, a group of bipartisan senators, led by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, introduced comprehensive legislation that would restructure federal sentencing laws and prison terms, as well as reduce recidivism by helping prisoners successfully reenter society.

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